Serial Number: 10/065,870
Filed: 11/26/2002

Claim Amendments

1-16 (withdrawn)

17. (currently amended) A cord retainer apparatus, comprising:

a first clip and a second clip,

the first clip and the second clip arranged to be attachable to the cord from a direction tangential to a longitudinal axis of the ~~cord~~ first clip and the second clip, respectively;

the first clip and the second clip connectable together via magnetic force.

18.(original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the first clip has a magnet and the second clip has a ferrous member.

19. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the ferrous member has a raised contact area and the first clip has a retaining member having one of an indented area and an aperture.

20. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the raised contact area and one of the indented area and the aperture are arranged to mate together.

21. (canceled)

Serial Number: 10/065,870
Filed: 11/26/2002

BANNER IP

Record of Conversation with Examin r

Despite a prior request for a formal interview based upon a draft response submitted directly to the Examiner May 17, 2004, a formal interview was not granted because of the Examiner's belief that the draft response would not place the application in condition for allowance.

However, Applicant appreciates the Examiner taking the time to make suggestions and explain her position(s).

During informal telephone conversations May 21 and May 24, 2004, Applicant urged reconsideration of the Examiner's position and the Examiner restated her position that by moving the cord end through space to thread one of the eyelets of *Budreck* this satisfied the claim limitation of a first and second clip attachable to the cord from a direction tangential to a longitudinal axis of the cord. Applicant respectfully submitted that movement of an end of the cord in any direction is movement of the cord in a direction along a longitudinal axis of the cord, not a direction tangential to a longitudinal axis of the cord as claimed, because the cord end is the leading end of the longitudinal axis of the cord.

The Examiner indicated that amending the reference longitudinal axis to be that of the first and second clip(s), respectively, might, upon further consideration eliminate the *Budreck* reference.